

## **Energy Team**

**December 17, 2013**

**4:30 pm**

**People Present:** Bill Basford, Kevin Bright, Ken Fletcher, Ernie Grolimund, Mike Heavener, Charlie Holly, Peter Garrett, Elery Keene, Tom Poulin, John Reuthe, Joshua Reny, Linda Woods

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Purpose of the meeting: Since natural gas is on its way, SMMC thought important to bring the Energy Team back together to see if there is still work to do.

The meeting started with introductions.

### **Brief Summary of Past Work:**

Mike provided a brief summary of past work starting with the SMMC Vision Statement's fifth paragraph that is energy specific. He summarized the 2009 EECBG grant and Sustain Mid Maine Residential Energy Program (SMMRE). An offshoot of this grant was the hope to create a district energy entity. The presence of natural gas overruled other district energy sources. Legislation was proposed to create Kennebec Valley Gas District.

Mike distributed a copy of the Energy Team's Action Agenda from the 2013 annual meeting.

### **Municipal Natural Gas Advisory Committee:**

A Municipal Natural Gas Advisory Committee was formed to explore options. Currently they are looking for TIF revenue that might be used to fund a position to assist home owners with making the correct energy decisions. Ken explained a natural gas district would be a new entity without a model. Currently this advisory committee is looking at energy options in total as opposed to gas as the only alternative. This group will be viewed as a consumer group. There is potential for a co (or tri) generation plant.

### **Penobscot Energy Recovery Committee (PERC)/ Waste to Energy (2018):**

PERC takes area waste and converts it to energy. Area municipalities are planning for 2018 when the contract expires. An option at that time could be single stream sorting with non-recyclables being burned to generate electricity and possibly heat. Joshua is on the Board for Municipal Review Committee. He repeated their goals: affordable, environmental sound, long term waste management.

### **Where to Go from Here:**

- Peter: value of air-to-air heat pumps; PV solar panels price has come down
- John: summarized district energy originally studied solar and shelved it
- A lot more can be done to button-up area homes. To be successful this program needs incentives.

- Coalition hopes to do the residential program again and include commercial, but there is no money available at this point.
- Suggestion for this team: Look at what technology that is available & make recommendations for residential & commercial use.
- Biggest challenge is giving people the information they need to make responsible choices. There is no way to determine residential energy efficiency.
- Educate people & providing access to info is key.
- Maybe the Education Team could host informational events.
- Maybe events at Home Depot or Campbell's True Value
- Chamber of Commerce is interested in helping business owners learn more about how to reduce energy costs. Try to engage with Mike Stoddard of Efficiency Maine
- Municipal Natural Gas District will be discussing policy, but probably won't develop programs
- Can we expand SMMRE to small commercial?
- We have a good working relationship with Efficiency Maine.
- Typical homeowners assume their house is "normal" and don't know how much their fuel bill is and don't discuss this with neighbors. Create a handout that summarizes this. We have an easy-to-use calculator to determine this.
- For the SMMRE, John asked a series of questions and did a 2 hour walk through before calling the auditor in.
- Reducing the amount of energy to heat homes is crucial.
- SMMRE has follow-up data as well.
- Ernie summarized his concern about wood smoke. Bill indicated that burning wood increases carbon.
- Bill stated that Mainers spend more money on transportation than heating fuel.
- Charlie would like to see someone from Efficiency Maine address this.

#### Action Items:

Ken: Contact Dan Fischer about attending an Energy Team meeting

Ken: Send the link from Efficiency Maine's triennial plan

John: Present the SMMRE data at the next meeting

- Bill pointed out that stores along Main St. need electricity upgrades. Linda summarized Green Seal program that the RX4 Team is working on.
- Josh indicated that an adult ed course around energy efficiency might be an option. KVCC did something like this.

There is an opening for an Energy Team leader. If you are interested, please let Mike Heavener know.

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 14 at 4:30** in the **Winslow Town Office**.